

Probate Court Receives High Marks

The Newaygo County Probate Court recently received a near perfect rating on timeliness from the Michigan Supreme Court Administrator's office.

"This is great news for the people of this county, and a great tribute to the hard work and efficiency of our court staff," said Probate Judge Graydon Dimkoff. "Of the five case-load categories, our court attained 100 percent on four, and 99 percent on the fifth."

Judge Dimkoff said that the statistics are monitored by the administrative arm of the Supreme Court, which oversees and rates all Michigan probate courts

annually on how quickly cases are handled from start to finish.

"Each type of case is assigned a particular time requirement," he explained. "For instance, 90 percent of mental illness proceedings must be adjudicated within 14 days of filing, and 100

percent within 28 days of filing."

Judge Dimkoff said that since he came to the bench in 1998, his staff's overriding goal has been to "take good care of people."

"Perhaps the most important way to do so is to insure that cases are handled in a

timely, competent and compassionate manner," he said. "Our Probate office handled over 400 cases in 2005, and this high rating is due to the dedication, cooperation, and caring attitude of our Newaygo County Probate Court staff."



Probate Judge Graydon Dimkoff (left), Deputy Probate Registrar Kerrie VanBelzen (center) and Probate Registrar Lyn Daniels celebrated the local court's near-perfect timeliness rating.